

# Sherman Housing Commission

## Special Meeting

Monday, April 14, 2014

Present: Steve Roffwarg, chair. Jeanette Perlman, Charlie Reppenhagen. COA members Lorna Barrett and Jill Finch. Guest: Joe Kenneally. Lynne Gomez, clerk.

Minutes of the March 24 meeting were tabled until next meeting, in view of no quorum.

Recent BOS action: Steve discussed recent BOS vote on the Lease, which was 1-0 in favor of presenting the lease to voters at referendum. Selectmen Bob Ostrosky and Clay Cope abstained. Andrea voted in favor.

Going Forward: Steve discussed reaching out to community through a forum and outreach. Reaching school parents and seniors was discussed as goal, prior to vote. A review of recent Citizen News opinion piece by Willie Knaak was discussed. Steve listed objections to the project: traffic backup on 37, senior drivers endangering soccer children, loss of open space, loss of soccer fields, tax increases and how to subsidize seniors who are not income eligible for affordable senior housing. Steve plans to work with members of Housing Commission to refute these claims. Steve and Jeanette will work on an article. Charlie Reppenhagen will work on letter to editor.

As part of publicity, suggestions included: publishing a simplified map of the project zone, reaching out to organizations, such as Park and Rec, political parties, COA, etc. Andrea might be called upon to reach out to religious organizations. Steve plans to meeting with Clay and Bob to find out how to get them “on board.”

Housing Forum: Set for Saturday, May 31 from 10 to 1 pm at the School cafeteria. Speakers would include: Leslie Higgins Biddle, New Fairfield Housing reps, David Berto, the Bachrachs from Templeton Farms in Kent.

Discussion followed on garages, square footage, reaching out to religious organizations in town, investors, what would rent be and “will the property generate property taxes.”

Colonial Park was identified as 67 acres, of which 15 would be earmarked for proposed Affordable Senior Housing. Discussion followed on having emergency access off Cedar Lane.

Reaching out to seniors was identified as an integral part of public awareness prior to vote. Starting a new petition was discussed. The existing petition will be reviewed, which includes about 40 signatures. My Senior Center, the software program used at Sherman Senior Center, has addresses of hundreds of Sherman Seniors. The Sherman Parent Teacher Organization has emails for 500 parents.

Discussion followed on who can vote at referendum. Property owners or registered voters.

Discussion followed on the Sherman Housing Trust. Who are members and how are they chosen? Steve will investigate how New Fairfield manned its housing Trust.

Next Housing Commission meeting: Set for May 19. However, Steve will give 48 hours notice if a special meeting is required prior.

Motion to Adjourn: 6:30 pm            Submitted, Lynne Gomez, clerk